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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Dismantling of Industrial Plants
in Upper Silesia

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1. Redenhütte, Hindenburg

The Redenhütte was not a foundry, but an engineering works. It was of very modern construction with a staff of 1,500 and belonged to the Borsig-Kokoswerke concern. The Redenhütte comprised inter alia a rolling mill and an excellent pressing plant. Pre-war production consisted of mining equipment of all kinds including locomotives for use below ground, the latter in conjunction with Siemens-Schuckert and the Sachsenwerk, Dresden. During the war the Redenhütte was also engaged in the production of tank parts, for which the afore-mentioned pressing plant was excellently suited, while the rolling mill turned out railroad track almost exclusively. The Russians took over the plant in 1945 virtually undamaged. The works were totally dismantled and re-erected somewhere in the Donetz basin; the exact location is not at present known.

2. Stadtwerk, Gleiwitz

This steel plant, which employed 5,000-6,000 men, also contained the principal research laboratory of the Vereinigte Oberschlesische Hüttenwerke (VOHAG). The plant fell into Russian hands completely undamaged in 1945, and was completely dismantled by the Russians in that year.

3. Drahtwerk, Gleiwitz

This works, which had a staff of 1,200 and was fitted out with very modern equipment, was taken over undamaged by the Russians and totally dismantled.

4. Donnersmarckhütte, Hindenburg

Like the Redenhütte, this plant was not a foundry, but a machine shop. It was fitted out with very modern equipment and employed a staff of 4,000. Production consisted chiefly of bridging material and iron products of every kind, including the mechanical parts for cranes and conveyors. The plant was taken over by the Russians completely undamaged and was totally dismantled.

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5. Presswerk. Laband

This factory was exclusively an armament works and was one of the most modern plants in Upper Silesia. It employed a staff of about 5,000 on the production of torpedoes, aircraft parts, etc. The plant was taken over by the Russians completely undamaged and was totally dismantled.

6. Hermannshütte. Laband

The number of employees at this works was 3,000. The plant was taken over undamaged by the Russians and was totally dismantled, together with the rolling mill.

7. Friedenshütte. Morgenrot

This plant underwent only partial dismantling, which consisted of the following: a circular disc rolling mill, a wheel rim rolling mill, and a boiler installation. The dismantling thus extended only to those pieces of equipment installed during the German occupation by the Germans. Otherwise the works remain complete and is at present in operation with a staff of 3,000 to 4,000. The sheet rolling mill is intact and is engaged on the rolling of broad strips by the Szendziner process. In addition the plant comprises sections for ingots and girders, a large iron construction workshop, embracing the blast furnace installations and a Siemens-Martin furnace with its accessories.

8. Stahlwerk. Malapane

This plant underwent a partial dismantling in 1945, involving two 15-ton electric arc furnaces, one 6-ton electric arc furnace, one 2½-ton high frequency furnace, as well as 50 percent of the machine-shops (Bearbeitungswerkstätten). Left intact were one 6-ton electric arc furnace, two 3-ton electric arc furnaces, one 2½-ton high frequency furnace, and the remainder of the machine shops. In September 1945 the works was taken over by the Poles. Malapane employs a staff of 1,000 to 1,500, has been thoroughly re-equipped, and is producing aircraft castings, tank track parts and other forms of steel castings. Some of the dismantled machine-tools from Malapane were temporarily re-installed at Neusiedl a/See in Burgenland (Austria) and at Troppau (Opava) in Czechoslovakia to deal with repairs to damaged engines of Russian T 34 tanks. This work, which was carried out by a Russian mobile column, was completed in 1947, after which the machinery was again dismantled and transferred to Ashkabad (Turkmenistan).

9. Julienhütte. Bobrek-Karf

Dismantling at this plant in 1945 involved the "Blockstrasse" and the entire system of machine shops: the mechanical, the electrical, and the armature-winding shops. The blast furnace, the coking plant, and the steel works remained intact and were taken over by the Poles.

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